**OVERVIEW STATEMENT**

The desire to become a teacher can be attributed to my reading comprehension struggles. Until recently, reading comprehension was a weakness of mine that affected my academic performance. Teachers addressed my reading weakness through report card comments; however, no attempts were made on developing skills to fix these problems. Since then, I developed study skill habits that were ineffective and time consuming. I labeled myself as a poor reader and this self fulfilling prophecy created barriers between me and my textbooks.

During my undergraduate years in college, I had difficulties choosing a field of study. After several changes, I graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Communication, entered the workforce, and held positions in the precious metals, advertising and restaurant industries. In 2002, my first child was born and the next few years were dedicated to raising my two children. In 2005, I matriculated into the University of Rhode Island taking general science and education classes. Here, I enrolled in an education class “Reading in the Content Areas” (EDC 448) which taught me comprehension strategies that involved making connections, visualizing, questioning, making inferences, and synthesizing information. These comprehension skills gave me insight to understanding and remembering text; strategies that were not taught during my early academic years. Finally, reading made sense and became more enjoyable to me.

My life-long work history and education experiences exhibit many qualities teachers possess: knowledge, communication skills, commitment, and professionalism. Knowledge is pertinent to understanding students, subject content and performing any work related tasks. Whether I was conducting research, writing proposals, giving oral presentations, signing contracts or managing a restaurant, knowledge and effective communication skills were required to maintain professionalism. Commitment involves dedication to students, education, and the community as well as commitment to oneself. As a volunteer at the local high school, I dedicated my time and provided students with various materials that reinforced content addressed in the classroom. I realized the importance of a teachers’ commitment to their students; striving to reach all students with different learning capabilities.

Enrolling back into the university and overcoming my reading adversities has made me realize I want to give students’ what was not available to me—an opportunity to succeed. Having a breadth of educational and work experiences can only prove me to be valuable as a teacher. My dedication to education, the community and myself are qualities that will surely enhance education.